

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 have been cancelled and a new method claim 7 is presented to more clearly define the present invention.

In view of the cancellation of claims 1-6, the Examiner's objection to the drawings becomes moot as well as the rejections under 35 USC 112 and 35 USC 102.

Support for new claim 7 may be found in the original specification on page 4, last paragraph as well as on page 5, second full paragraph which recites coupled braking by means of both operating levers 1 and 2.

It is clear that the references cited by the Examiner do not disclose, teach, or suggest the method of the present invention.

The Examiner's response to earlier arguments that the recitation of an intended use are now moot in view of the method claim presented.

The Examiner has stated that if the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use then it meets the claim.

The Applicants submit that the references cited by the Examiner do not teach first and second levers which can be coupled after initial setting for operating both an electric brake and an indirect acting brake. Thus, prior

art structure is not capable of performing the claimed method.

Specifically, U.S. 4,094,209 to Van Rossem, et al. in column 3, at the paragraph beginning on line 32 teaches operator use which includes bridging a gap between the knob assemblies with an operator's hand. There is no suggestion or teaching of coupling the first and second lever to one another and addition Japanese Patent 5-75923 does not teach or suggest coupleable levers.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment to the claims and the arguments hereinabove set forth, it is submitted that the claim now in the application defines patentable subject matter not anticipated by the art of record and not obvious to one skilled in this field who is aware of the references of record. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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